

**Sermon Title: *“Giving that Reflects God’s Grace”***

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, January 7, 2018

**Introduction**

***2 Corinthians 8:1-9 -***

Note: How we deal with our money is a clear indicator of the condition of our heart.

***Matthew 6:21 - “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

Principle #1: God already (and absolutely!) owns everything.

***Psalm 24:1-2 - “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.”***

***Psalm 50:9-12 - “I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.”***

***Ezekiel 18:4a - “Behold, all souls are mine.”***

Principle #2: Stewardship is not God’s method for raising money, it’s God’s method for raising us.

Thomas Jefferson - *“When the heart is right the feet are swift.”*

Chuck Swindoll - *“When the heart is right, the wallet is open.”*

***1 Timothy 6:17-19 - “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”***

Principle #3: A generous spirit will always be the consequence of a joyful heart.

***Galatians 5:2 - “…the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience…”***

Note: We, as believers, have the only basis for true, authentic joy, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

***Proverbs 15:13 - “A glad heart makes a cheerful face…”***

**I. Grace Motivated Giving**

1) The church in Jerusalem was struggling and was in need of help and financial assistance.

2) God is going to use the Macedonians as a good example for the Corinthians to follow, but, make no mistake about it, the Macedonians are NOT the focus of these verses, God’s grace is.

3) Joy can be abundant even when affliction is severe.

4) Motivated by God’s grace, the Macedonians joyfully and freely gave “contrary to their ability”.

***Ephesians 5:1-2 - “…be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”***

***Acts 20:35 - “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”***

5) They gave generously because they had already given themselves to the Lord.

***2 Corinthians 9:6-7 -***

***Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-5; 35:29; 36:2-7 -***

Note: In Scripture, moral imperatives always grow out of redemptive indicatives.

***2 Corinthians 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.”***

**Take Home Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. Why is it so important to know and remember that God owns everything? What kinds of sinful attitudes and actions should this knowledge help us avoid?
2. What kinds of lessons have you learned as you’ve tried to be a faithful steward of the what God has entrusted to you? How has God used the issue of stewardship to mature sanctify you?
3. What is our basis for joy as believers in Christ? Why should we be joyful?
4. Why is God’s grace, and not the Macedonians, the focus of 2nd Corinthians 8?
5. Why doesn’t Paul tell us exactly what severe test of affliction the Macedonians were experiencing? Why doesn’t Paul tell us exactly what the Macedonians gave? Where should our focus be?
6. What does it mean that the Macedonians gave “beyond their means”? Have you ever seen or experienced this type of giving? When? What did it look like?
7. Why does God love a “cheerful giver”? What does this teach us about God?